



**KENTUCKY READING FIRST  
UPDATE (7)  
March, 2005**

“Teacher effectiveness is the single biggest factor influencing gains in achievement, an influence bigger than race, poverty, parent's education, or any of the other factors that are often thought to doom children to failure.”

The Education Trust

This quote seems to sum up what Kentucky Reading First is all about - improving classroom instruction for our most struggling students. Over the past year, we have seen great improvements in the kinds of systemic change we were hopeful for through Kentucky Reading First. And, amazingly we are just in our first year of implementation. Wow, imagine where we will be in four years!

Thank you to all for participating in our Kentucky Teaching and Learning Pre-Conference Session - Fierce Conversations. Our presenters were amazed at the enthusiasm focused on this initiative. The KDE Reading First team is hopeful this professional development experience has encouraged you to begin to have the fierce conversations needed to spark conversations leading to change.

**I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**School Coach April Regional Meeting**

The April Regional Coaches' meeting will be held in Frankfort at the Holiday Inn on April 13, 2005. This session will be designed to provide guidance on how to use the Coaching Module many of you received at the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference. Please contact Mr. Kiley Whitaker at [kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us) or <mailto:kwhitake@kde.state.ky.us> for additional information.

Please bring a copy of your school's 2005-2006 calendar. We are hopeful all district and school commitments will be identified on this calendar. The KDE Reading First team will be using this to schedule 2005-2006 Reading First professional development.

National Reading First Conference - July 26-28, 2005 - New Orleans, LA

**REMINDER:** Each school may send up to two participants and two district representatives may attend. For example: if a district has three Reading First schools then a total of eight individuals can attend -- two from each participating building and two from the central office.

Principals' Institute

The Principals' Institute was a success. The evaluations show that the various individuals that attended preferred this format. Several principals and superintendents indicated that the information from the sessions was beneficial and will assist them in determining if scientifically based reading instruction is occurring in every classroom, daily.

2005 Summer Reading First Institutes

Plans and sites for the 2005 Reading First Summer Institutes are being made. Your State Reading Coach should have the dates for their regional site and will be working with their School Coaches to carry out these plans. The Institutes will be two days this year and will be held regionally.

Planning reading professional development for the upcoming school year will require you to think more strategically about ways to obtain the 80 hours Reading First professional development requirement. The 2005 Reading First Summer Institutes will provide a total of 14 hours (7 hours each day).

Special Education Reading First Summer Institutes (2005)

This summer, KDE will be hosting Reading First Special Education Summer Institutes. The Special Education Cooperatives, and Literacy Consultants in your area are taking the lead on this project. The State Reading First Coaches will be collaborating on this project throughout the summer. The institutes will be designed to enhance reading instruction for our most struggling readers and to ensure that scientifically based reading instruction occurs in all classrooms. KDE is targeting special education teachers (*grades 4-8*) in Reading First districts, non-funded schools. Registration is going on now through the Special Education Cooperatives.

**REMINDER:** All Reading First sites are held accountable for the eighty (80) hours of professional development for primary teachers and twenty (20) hours for principals. Now is the time to be monitoring the status of your faculty. If you have teachers in danger of not meeting this requirement, please contact your State Reading First Coach immediately.

## **II. STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/MONITORING**

### **KDE Reading First Visits**

KDE Reading First staff has had an opportunity to get out to visit some of our Reading First sites. These visits allow for staff to visit classrooms during the 90 minutes of reading instruction and provide feedback to the various stakeholders at the school. We will continue Reading First site visits until the end of the school year, expect during the state testing window.

District Coaches should be monitoring every aspect of the district Reading First plan and the school funded within the district. It is critical that each district review the evaluation component of your approved plan.

## **III. BUDGET SUPPORT**

The attachments below provide clarification for professional development stipends. Please review the KDE Professional Development Standards to make sure all professional development experiences are aligned to the standards.



Clarification on  
Professional ...



PD Standards.doc

## **IV. ASSESSMENTS**

**REMINDER:** Reading First testing should take place after CTB testing. So, end of primary students (p4) must take CTB before required Reading First assessments.

GRADE and DIBELS testing can be administered during the ninety-minute reading block. If your school will be administering other state testing, that may occur in the 90-minute block, as well. But, we ask School Coaches take a look at the school's master schedule to see how it can be modified to ensure students receive some reading instruction throughout this testing season.

### **GRADE**

**REMINDER:** In response to many requests, the spring GRADE testing window has been extended. The testing window is April 25 - May 11, 2005. All student booklets should be post marked May 11<sup>th</sup> to AGS. AGS has indicated that this will move reporting dates back to June 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **DIBELS**

The DIBELS assessment window is the same.- April 25 - May 12<sup>th</sup> All student information must be synced/uploaded Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **V. NATIONAL/STATE EVALUATION**

The State Reading First Evaluation team has one more site visit scheduled before the end of the school year (for case study sites). I appreciate your willingness to work with our evaluation team.

## **Reminders/FYI**

### **Non-negotiable CSIP Component**

This is the time of year when schools are rethinking and reevaluating their Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). We want to remind you that all Reading First schools are required to have a Reading Component in their CSIP. This is a non-negotiable. KDE encourages you to work with your State Reading First Coach throughout this planning process.

### **Reading/Language Arts Textbook Adoption**

In June and July the State Textbook Adoption Commission will be reviewing textbooks and instructional materials for the upcoming textbook adoption. KDE Reading First staff advises that all Reading First schools wait to make decisions about reviewing the revised material from your core program vendor/publisher. KDE Reading First staff and the State Reading First Coaches will be receiving information on the latest revisions made to your existing core reading programs. Reading First vendors/publishers have been asked to submit documentation to the department identifying the revisions or edits made to their upcoming adoption. The KDE Reading First Staff is trying to ensure that all Reading First sites make wise and economical decisions about their programs as we enter into a new textbook adoption year. KDE will be providing guidance to all Reading First schools to assist you throughout this process. More information will be forthcoming related to this process.